

BOOK REVIEWS

Current Problems in Dermatology. Volume 2. Antibiotic Treatment of Venereal Diseases. Edited by A. LUGER. 1968. Pp. xii + 187, 22 figs, 45 tables. Karger, Basel; Academic Press, London. (\$11.75; 98s.)

The foreword to this book by Professor Jadassohn states that it "brings together in extended form studies presented at the International Congress of Chemotherapy in Vienna, 1967, brought up to date following the XIII International Congress of Dermatology, Munich, 1967".

The four chapters relating to Syphilis reflect some of the disadvantages of compiling a book in this way. The first chapter by Drs. T. Guthe and O. Idsøe is an excellent critical review of the antibiotic treatment of syphilis, marred only by the statement that ampicillin is resistant to penicillinase. The second chapter, however, consists largely of the results obtained in one clinic in Poland with little discussion of other workers' results and as such seems of less value. Although there is some cross-referencing in the four chapters on syphilis there is still considerable repetition.

The chapter on Gonorrhoea by Dr. R. R. Willcox is outstanding, but surprisingly also states that ampicillin is resistant to penicillinase. The remaining chapters deal with Trichomoniasis, Non-specific Urethritis, and Penicillin Reactions, the last being another excellent account by Drs. Idsøe and Guthe. The chapter headed "Causes and Treatment of Non-specific Urethritis in the Male" will seem strange to most venereologists in Great Britain. It seems to deal with every cause of non-gonococcal urethritis other than what we should call non-specific urethritis! Lymphogranuloma venereum, chancroid, and granuloma inguinale are not discussed in this book, which seems a surprising omission when the foreword states that it should prove useful as a reference volume. Another omission is a proper index, although it is fairly easy to find one's way about from the detailed list of contents at the front of the book.

P. RODIN.

Neuro-ophthalmology. Symposium of the University of Miami and the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute. Compiled and Edited by J. LAWTON SMITH. Vol. 4, 1968. Pp. 413. Mosby, Saint Louis; Kimpton, London. (£14 3s. 6d.)

This book includes 26 articles reviewing recent developments in neuro-ophthalmology, including pupillary physiology, ocular motility disorders, vascular lesions, temporal lobe disease, intracranial pressure mechanisms, neuro-otology, neuroradiology, and paediatric neuro-ophthalmology.

Three papers are of direct interest to venereologists. Lawton Smith describes four patients with late syphilis (two with optic atrophy, one with uveitis, one with tabes) who were sero-negative by conventional tests but in three of whom the FTA-ABS test was positive. Treponemes were demonstrated in the aqueous or spinal fluid in all of them. In one instance, the patient with uveitis, treponemes were again found in the aqueous fluid after treatment with penicillin. A rabbit injected with spinal fluid after the patient had received a second course of penicillin spread over 12 weeks showed evidence of sero-conversion. A second paper, also published in this journal (*B.J.V.D.*, 1968, **44**, 277), describes the finding of treponemes in the spinal fluid, cerebral cortex, and liver of a patient with proven general paralysis of the insane after treatment with 36 mega units of penicillin.

In a third paper C. W. Israel describes the techniques used by the Miami group for the demonstration of treponemes. Very full details of the equipment needed and the methods of fluorescent antibody staining are given. These will be of great value to anyone wishing to undertake studies in this new field as they are based on extensive practical experience.

The book is beautifully produced with excellent illustrations and a good index; the price will deter most private individuals.

A. E. WILKINSON.